

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TOKYO 03739 080834Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 /057 W
-----013910 081405Z /53
R 080819Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASDHC 5905

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TOKYO 3739

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ETRD, JA, ELAB
SUBJECT: AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS: JAPANESE PRESS SOUNDS CAUTIONARY NOTE

REF: TOKYO 3244

SUMMARY: JAPANESE PRESS IS REPORTING RISING CONCERN ABOUT
EXCESSIVE AUTO EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WE BELIEVE MITI MAY
BE BEHIND THIS AS ONE MEANS OF PROMOTING AUTO EXPORT "MODERATION."
END SUMMARY.

1. FEBRUARY 28 JAPANESE PRESS SPECULATES THAT JAPANESE
AUTO EXPORTS COULD BE THE NEXT ITEM OF A TRADE DISPUTE
BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE U.S. SANKEI ARTICLE CITES UPCOMING
TWO-WEEK VISIT OF UAW DELEGATION ON TRIP ARRANGED BY ITS
JAPANESE COUNTERPART, JIDOSHA SOREN, AS ONE EXAMPLE OF
INCREASING "EXTERNAL PRESSURE" ON JAPAN TO KEEP ITS AUTO
EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WITHIN REASON. REPORTER ALSO REFERS
TO THE CONTINUING SLUMP OF U.S. AUTO SALES, FACT THAT
SALES OF IMPORTS CROSSED THE "WARNING LINE" OF 20
PERCENT OF U.S. SALES IN JANUARY WHICH T. ISHIHARA,
PRESIDENT OF NISSAN PUBLICLY MENTIONED IN JANUARY AS A TOP SAFE
LIMIT, AND MINISTER USHIBA'S RECENT CALL, IN RESPONSE TO
A DIETMAN'S QUESTION, FOR "CAUTION" IN AUTO EXPORTS
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TOKYO 03739 080834Z

TO THE U.S. AND BRITAIN AS OTHER INDICATIONS THAT
JAPAN'S MOTOR VEHICLE SHIPMENTS TO THE U.S. COULD
BE THE FOCUS OF THE NEXT BILATERAL TRADE BROUHAHA.
MARCH 8 REPORT IN YOMIURI SAYS MINISTRY OF FINANCE ALSO HAS URGED
MITI TO RESTRAIN AUTO EXPORTS WHICH ALLEGEDLY ACCOUNT FOR MUCH OF
INCREASE IN SURPLUS BALANCE.

2. COMMENT: PRIVATE VISIT OF UAW DELEGATION AT THIS TIME IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL. MOFA HAS PROMISED AN OFFICIAL COPY OF MINISTER USHIBA'S REMARKS WHEN READY BUT HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT AN IMPORT SALES SHARE OF OVER 20 PERCENT IN THE U.S. COULD CAUSE "PROTECTIONIST MOVES" AND CALLED FOR "CAUTION".

3. WE BELIEVE MITI MAY HAVE FOSTERED THE PRESS' LINE OF THINKING AS A MEANS OF BOTH TESTING AND PROMOTING AUTO EXPORT "MODERATION."
MANSFIELD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPORTS, PRESS COMMENTS, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO03739
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780104-0494
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780390/aaaacype.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bae60fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 TOKYO 3244
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3397675
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUTOMOBILE EXPORTS: JAPANESE PRESS SOUNDS CAUTIONARY NOTE
TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bae60fcb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014